

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Homma. Applicant has amended claim 1 to further define, among other features, obtaining a surface image of a coin, determining center coordinates of the coin, and extracting from the surface image a previously set particular threshold calculation range on the basis of the determined center coordinates. Claim 4 has been amended to further define, among other things, an extracting means that determines center coordinates of a coin on the basis of a surface image of the coin, and that extracts from the surface image a previously set particular threshold calculation range containing a feature area of the coin subject to judgment and not containing a background, on the basis of the determined center coordinates. Claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant respectfully submits that Homma neither teaches nor suggests, alone or in combination with the other references of record, all of the features of claims 1 and 4 as amended. For example, though Homma discloses a method for image binarization method, and further discloses that its method may be used for reading mail or bills, Applicant respectfully submits that Homma neither discloses nor suggests that its method is used to identify coins. All of the embodiments disclosed in Homma are directed to identification of paper.

Further, Homma fails to teach or suggest at least determining center coordinates of a coin and extracting from a surface image a previously set threshold calculation range on the basis of the determined center coordinates. Instead, Homma

discloses two methods for determining an area for binarization. The first method disclosed, “edge binarization”, creates an edge area based on a threshold difference between nearby pixels. The second method, “noise binarization”, determines an area for binarization by determining density distribution of isolated points in an image. Neither of these methods appears to teach or suggest extraction of a previously set threshold calculation range, nor that such a range is extracted based on determined center coordinates.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 4.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Homma in view of Merton. Applicants respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 5 for at least the reasons stated above regarding Homma, and for at least the additional reason that Merton fails to remedy the deficiencies of Homma. Further, Merton fails to teach or suggest at least a configuration for calculating a binary threshold value for binarization by applying a discriminating analysis and binarizing an obtained surface image of a coin on the basis of the calculated binary threshold value. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner’s statement. Particular features of claims 3 and 7 have been added to claims 1 and 4, respectively. Claims 3 and 7 have been amended to remove duplication of features. At this time, Applicant elects

to keep claims 3 and 7 in dependent form pending the Examiner's response to the amendments and arguments submitted herewith.

Reconsideration and allowance of all claims that are pending in the application is respectfully requested. If there is any remaining issue with regard to allowing all claims, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned so that it can be resolved and a patent can issue as expeditiously as possible.

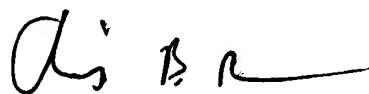
Respectfully submitted,

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By



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